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POINT PAPER
ON
COMMERCIAL ISSUE IN NATIONAL SPACE POLICY

PURPOSE: (C) Limit policy direction which, if approved, would require the Intelligence Space Program to purchase commercial space goods and services to the fullest extent feasible.

BACKGROUND:

- (U) National Space policy being revised under auspices of SIG (Space)
- (U) Many issues resolved in working groups
- (U) Primary issue remaining is the NASA desire for strong policy support of manned space programs
  - -- (U) Indirectly affects Intelligence Community through budget competition
  - -- (U) OMB and DOD oppose NASA position
  - -- (U) Intelligence Community need not be out in front on issue, but could support OMB and DOD position to limit open-ended budget item of manned space exploration.
- (C) A secondary issue, but of greater concern to the Intelligence Community, is the extent to which Governmental (including Intelligence) Space Sectors are required to purchase commercial space goods and services.

DISCUSSION:

- (U) DOC supports language "... to the fullest extent feasible" in Atch 1 without qualification.
  - -- (U) Issue revolves around definition of "feasible".
    - --- (U) Webster's definition: "capable of being done".
  - -- (C) At face value, policy would require Intelligence (and military) to purchase commercial goods and services, whenever "capable of being done". Examples:
    - --- (U) Launch
    - --- (U) Communications
    - --- (U) Remote Sensing
- (U) Intelligence Community, supported by DOD and NASA, suggest adding qualifier "... consistent with national security and mission requirements".

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-- (U) DOC objects, claiming that the qualification of "feasible" can be left to the "Guidelines" section of National Space Policy, rather than in this "Policy" section.

--- (U) DOC does not object to our wording; only to the location of the words.

-- (U) Our position is that the qualification is absolutely necessary up front, lest the policy statement be misinterpreted to be absolute.

RECOMMENDATION: (U) Insist that the qualifier underlined in the attachment, "consistent with national security and mission requirements" be included in the Policy section of the document.

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IV. COMMERCIAL SPACE POLICY

United States government agencies shall facilitate the continuing development of a separate, non-governmental commercial space sector. Expanding private sector investment in space by the market-driven Commercial sector generates economic benefits for the Nation and supports governmental space sectors with an increasing range of space goods and services. Governmental space sectors shall purchase commercially available space goods and services to fullest extent feasible, consistent with national security and mission requirements. Governmental space sectors shall not conduct activities with potential commercial applications so as to preclude or deter commercial sector space activities except for national security or public safety reasons. Commercial sector space activities shall be supervised or regulated only to the extent required by law, national security, international obligations, and public safety. (U)

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